

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 EB-07 OMB-01

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
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R 290602Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5205

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0672

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJECT: MCDONNEL-DOUGLAS/ADD NIKE-HERCULES MISSILE IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM DEAD

1. MCDONNEL DOUGLAS FAR EAST MARKETING MANAGER, MERLE PETERS, TOLD POLCOUNS JANUARY 28 THAT MCDONNEL DOUGLAS/ADD NIKE-HERCULES MISSILE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WITH KOREA WAS, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, DEAD. ADD PRESIDENT SHIM MOON TAIL TOLD MCDONNEL DOUGLAS REPRESENTATIVES TWO WEEKS AGO THAT MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SUH CHONG CHOL HAD DECIDED THAT \$240 MILLION WHICH ROKS PROJECTED AS NECESSARY FOR COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT, CONVERSION, AND TRAINING INVOLVED, WAS SIMPLY TOO MUCH FOR KOREA TO DIGEST, GIVEN OTHER MILITARY PRIORITIES. SHIM TOLD MCDONNEL DOUGLAS THAT PROJECT DEFINITELY OFF FOR THIS YEAR, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED A YEAR HENCE. HOWEVER, ADD VICE PRESIDENT FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS RHEE MAN YOUNG SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD MCDONNEL DOUGLAS PEOPLE THAT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY PROJECT WOULD BE REVIVED. ADD SAID TO BE STILL CONSIDERING SOME SMALL CONTINUATION OF PROJECT "TO KEEP IT ALIVE", BUT APPARENTLY PROSPECT OF EVEN THIS BEING APPROVED
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IS REMOTE.

2. PETERS VENTURED PERSONAL OPINION THAT USG DECISION NOT TO ALLOW MCDONNELL DOUGLAS TO ENGAGE WITH KOREANS IN EXTENSION OF MISSILE RANGE TO 200 MILES, AND TO CONFINE PROJECT TO SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY/MAINTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENTS, KILLED KOREAN INTEREST. HE SAID THERE WAS NOTABLE DECLINE IN ENTHUSIASM FOR PROJECT AMONG KOREANS AS SOON AS THIS DECISION BECAME KNOWN. PETERS SAID THAT, AS FAR AS HE AWARE, KOREA NOW HAD NO PLAN FOR DEVELOPING LONG RANGE MISSILE.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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